

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend the following claims as indicated:

1. (Previously Amended) A method for distributing a password protected content file without revealing to a recipient a password that protects the password protected content file, comprising steps of:

a. distributing to the recipient's computer an unlocking program having a password embedded within the unlocking program, the password corresponding to the password that protects the password protected content file;

b. distributing the password protected content file to the recipient's computer wherein the unlocking program runs separately from and monitors at least one application program and automatically supplies the password embedded within the unlocking program ~~an~~ to the application program upon the application program loading the password protected content file wherein the password embedded within the unlocking program is not revealed to the recipient.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancel)

4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein steps a and b are repeated at a predetermined rate and wherein the password protecting the password protected content file and the password embedded within the unlocking program are different in each repeat cycle.

5. (Withdrawn) A method for distributing a password protected content file without revealing the password to a recipient, comprising the steps of:

distributing a self-executing file stored on a computer readable medium, the self-executing file comprising:

a content file storing content, the content file being readable by an application program, the content file being locked with at least one password; and

an unlocking program having access to at least one password corresponding to the at least one password locking the content file, the unlocking program having instructions to automatically supply the at least one password to the application program upon the application program loading the content file.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein the content file is readable by an application program, and wherein the step of distributing the content file is defined further as supplying the at least one password to the application program upon the application program loading the content file.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein the unlocking program is adapted to run separately from the application program and to monitor the application program for a request for a password.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein steps a and b are repeated at a predetermined rate and wherein the password protecting the content file and the password accessed by the unlocking program are different in each repeat cycle.

9. (Withdrawn) A self-executing file stored on a computer readable medium, the self-executing file comprising:

a content file storing content, the content file being readable by an application program, the content file being locked with at least one password; and
an unlocking program having access to at least one password corresponding to the at least one password locking the content file, the unlocking program having instructions to automatically supply the at least one password to the application program upon the application program loading the content file.

10. (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 9, wherein the unlocking program includes at least one instruction for initiating the application program and for causing the application program to load the content file.

11. (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 9, wherein the unlocking program includes means for preventing a screen capture representing at least a portion of the content stored in the content file.

12. (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 9, wherein the unlocking program is adapted to run independently of the application program.

13. (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 9, wherein the unlocking program includes instructions for monitoring the running of at least one system administration program capable of terminating the unlocking program.

14. (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 13, wherein the unlocking program includes instructions for automatically terminating the system administration program upon detecting the running of such system administration program.

15. (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 13, wherein the unlocking program includes an instruction for terminating the application program upon detecting the running of such system administration program.

16. (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 15, wherein the unlocking program includes an instruction for terminating the unlocking program after the application program has been terminated.

17. (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 9, wherein the at least one system administration program includes a TaskManager program provided with a Windows operating system.

18. (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 9, wherein the unlocking program includes an instruction to prevent termination of the unlocking program.

19. (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 9, wherein the content file is characterized as a .pdf file.

20. (Currently Amended) An unlocking program stored on a computer readable medium ~~for unlocking~~ to unlock a password protected content file stored on a computer readable medium and readable by an application program, the password protected content file being locked with a password, the unlocking program being embedded with a password corresponding to the password locking the password protected content file and having instructions to monitor the application program and automatically supply the password locking the password protected content file to the application program upon the application program loading the password protected content file, wherein the password locking the password protected content file is not revealed to the recipient.

21. (Currently Amended) The unlocking program of claim 20, wherein the unlocking program includes at least one instruction ~~for initiating~~ to initiate the application program and ~~for causing~~ to cause the application program to load the password protected content file.

22. (Currently Amended) The unlocking program of claim 20, wherein the unlocking program includes means for preventing a screen capture representing at least a portion of the content stored in the password protected content file.

23. (Currently Amended) The unlocking program of claim 20, wherein the unlocking program is adapted to run independently of the application program.

24. (Currently Amended) The unlocking program of claim 20, wherein the unlocking program includes instructions ~~for monitoring~~ that monitor the running of at least one system administration program capable of terminating the unlocking program.

25. (Currently Amended) The unlocking program of claim 24, wherein the unlocking program includes instructions ~~for automatically terminating~~ that automatically terminate the system administration program upon detecting the running of such system administration program.

26. (Currently Amended) The unlocking program of claim 24, wherein the unlocking program includes an instruction ~~for terminating~~ that terminates the application program upon detecting the running of such system administration program.

27. (Currently Amended) The unlocking program of claim 26, wherein the unlocking program includes an instruction ~~for terminating~~ that terminates the unlocking program after the application program has been terminated.

28. (Previously Presented) The unlocking program of claim 20, wherein the at least one system administration program includes a TaskManager program provided with a Windows operating system.

29. (Previously Presented) The unlocking program of claim 20, wherein the unlocking program includes an instruction to prevent termination of the unlocking program.

30. (Previously Presented) The unlocking program of claim 20, wherein the password protected content file is characterized as a .pdf file.

31. (New) A method for distributing a password protected content file without revealing to a recipient a password that protects the password protected content file, comprising the steps of:

distributing to the recipient's computer an unlocking program having a password embedded within the unlocking program, the password corresponding to the password that protects the password protected content file; and distributing the password protected content file to the recipient's computer wherein the unlocking program runs separately from and initiates at least one application program automatically and monitors the at least one application program and automatically supplies the password embedded within the unlocking program to the application program upon the application program loading the password protected content file.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein steps a and b are repeated at a predetermined rate and wherein the password protecting the password protected content file and the password embedded within the unlocking program are different in each repeat cycle.